(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and how does it affect our defence preparedness; and

(c) whether Government have verified the accuracy of the report?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) and (c) Government keep a constant watch on the developments which have a bearing on national security, with a view to take appropriate measures for full defence preparedness. Details cannot be divulged in public interest.

Constitutional Status of Planning Commission

188. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR:

SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) wehther Government have any proposal under their consideration to give a constitutional status to the Planning Commission;

(b) whether the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has made any announcement in this regard recently;

(c) if so, what are the drawbacks noticed by Government in the present set up and functioning of Planing Commission;

(d) what are the details of the proposed set up and in what manner Government propose to rectify these drawbacks;

(e) whether Government would enact a legislation to achieve this objective, if so, when; and

(f) what would be the constitutional set up of Planning Commission in future?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government feels that according a constitutional status to the Planning Commission will enhance its prestige and effectiveness *vis-a-vis* the Central and the State Governments.

(d) to (f) Details regarding changes are under consideration.

Reservation Policy for SC/ST

189. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:

SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN ANSARI:

SHRI M.M. JACOB:

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Prime Minister made a public statement on reservation policy for Scheduled Catstes and Scheduled Tribes at Sikar during his visit to Rajasthan on the 8th December, 1989, wherein he had also stated that reservation for Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes will be restricted to one member of a family only;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the policy; and

(c) what new changes are being effected by Government therein?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) while on tour to his constituencp, Sikas in Rajasthan, on 8-12- 89 for thanking the electrorate after his election, the Deputy Prime Minister has expressed the view that he was in favour of continuing the reservations for SC and ST, but the possibilities of reservations in favour of other economically weaker sections

of the society should also be explored. These views were expressed in his individual capacity.

Submission of Reports by Central Road Research Institute

@189-A DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of reports submitted by the Central Road Research Institute during the last three years and during this year;

(b) the details of recommendations made by it in each of its reports;

(c) the details of the recommendations accepted by Government;

(d) the details of follow-up action taken thereon; and

(e) the details of the recommendations rejected by Government alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review and Revision of Support Price of Sugar-Cane

@@189-B DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed and raised the minimum support price for sugar-cane payable to the farmers; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Statutory minimum sugarcane price for 1989-90 sugar season has been increased from Rs. 19.50 in 1988-89 sugar season to Rs. 22|- per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Madam, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944, together with the Explanatory Memoranda on the Notifications.

(1) G.S.R. No. 747(E) dated the 11th August, 1989, amending notification No. 23/89 Central Excises dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to extend concessional rate of excise duty to modified poly-phenylene oxide.

(2) G.S.R. No. 750(E) dated the 16th August, 1989, amending notification No. 177/86-Central Excises dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to allow to the users full Modvat credit of duty paid on paper and paper board falling under sub-heading 4811.30 of the Schedule.

(3)G.S.R. No. 751(E) dated the 16th August, 1989, seeking to

@Previously unstarred question No. 290 Transferred from the 27th December, 1989.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question No 435 Transferred from the 29th December, 1989